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1 — EPA knew of 'blowout' risk for tainted water at gold mine, AP, 8/22/2015

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ce3904534ec443f488f620a9af83a9b4/epa-knew-blow-out-risk-tainted-water-gold-mine>

U.S. officials knew of the potential for a catastrophic "blowout" of poisonous wastewater from an inactive gold mine, yet appeared to have only a cursory plan to deal with such an event when a government cleanup team triggered a 3-million-gallon spill, according to internal documents released by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA released the documents late Friday following weeks of prodding from The Associated Press and other media organizations.

2 — (Opinion) Let Gold King spill be a warning, Albuquerque Journal, 8/24/2015

<http://www.abqjournal.com/633045/opinion/let-gold-king-spill-be-a-warning.html>

We have watched in horror and sadness as images of an orange, heavy metal-laden plume of mine wastewater flow down the Animas River from an accidental release at the inactive Gold King Mine in Colorado, impacting communities, farmers, wildlife and recreation along the way. Our thoughts are with the people who have been adversely affected, as well as those who are working around the clock to clean up and restore the watersheds contaminated by the accident.

3 — EPA: Animas River surface water returning to pre-spill conditions, Denver Post, 8/23/2015

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28690510/epa-animas-river-surface-water-returning-pre-spill

Environmental Protection Agency officials released new data Sunday that they said indicates surface water concentrations from the Animas River are returning to their normal conditions. Water samples collected by the EPA on Aug. 16 and 17 have been validated, the agency said.

4 — 'Reasonable' the crux in views on EPA's haze-pollution plan, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 8/23/2015

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/aug/23/reasonable-the-crux-in-views-on-epa-s-h/?f=news-arkansas>

The debate on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal for Arkansas to comply with a 1999 rule on haze centers on what federal, state, industry and environmental groups find "reasonable," according to public comments published by the EPA last weekend.

5 (Opinion) Political Target: Natural Gas, NY Times, 8/23/2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/political-target-natural-gas-1440367941?tesla=y&mod=vocus>

America's natural gas boom has been a rare economic bright spot, and even President Obama likes to take credit for it. But as his term winds down, the Administration is waging a war of regulatory attrition to raise drilling costs and reduce its competitive advantage over wind and solar power. The latest effort came last week when the Environmental Protection Agency issued its new rule to slash emissions of methane, a byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

6 Attorneys argue powers during hearing on federal water rule, NewOK, 8/21/2015

<http://newsok.com/attorneys-argue-powers-during-hearing-on-federal-water-rule/article/feed/879128>

Attorneys argued over state and federal powers for more than four hours Friday on an effort by 13 states to block a new rule that gives U.S. authorities jurisdiction over some state waters. North Dakota is leading a lawsuit filed on June 29 challenging an Obama administration rule that gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

7 – Methane regulations good for investors as well as the climate, Houston Chronicle, 8/20/2015

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/columnists/tomlinson/article/Methane-regulations-good-for-investors-as-well-as-6455605.php>

Natural gas producers have a choice to make: contribute to the problem of climate change and look greedy or become part of the solution, appear forward-thinking and make more money.

8 — (OP-ED) Richard Greene: EPA finalizes most sweeping regulations ever, Star-telegram, 8/21/2015

<http://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/richard-greene/article31848459.html>

Earlier this month the Environmental Protection Agency finalized the most sweeping set of regulations ever devised to govern our nation's energy providers. Heralding the new rules as necessary to save the planet from catastrophic global warming, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy proudly proclaimed the result would be a healthier nation and a stronger economy.

9 — Editorial: Texas has big role to play in cracking down on methane emissions, DMN, 8/20/2015

<http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20150823-editorial-texas-has-big-role-to-play-in-cracking-down-on-methane-emissions.ece>

If you are wondering why the Obama administration wants to crack down on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, consider these facts. Methane is 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that most of us know as a major contributor to global warming. Carbon dioxide stays in the air longer, but methane traps heat quicker. That's a big problem.

10 — Texas Seeks Clean Power Plan Administrative Stay, BNA, 8/21/2015

http://news.bna.com/delN/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=74602421&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0h1u5h8y7&split=0

Texas has asked the Environmental Protection Agency for an administrative stay of its Clean Power Plan rule until legal challenges can be resolved, according to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R). A stay of the rule is necessary to maintain the status quo during the course of the litigation, said Jon Niermann, Environmental Protection Division chief, in an Aug. 20 letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. While no harm would result from a stay, states will suffer irreparable harm by implementing the rule now, according to the letter.

11 — New Orleans' post-Katrina repairs pose lead poisoning threat, magazine says, Times Picayune, 8/20/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/post-katrina_renovations_pose.html#incart_river

Lead poisoning remains a threat to children in New Orleans ten years after Hurricane Katrina, thanks to the exposure of a new generation of children during the sanding of old paint in post-storm renovations, according to an online article published Wednesday in National Geographic. Reporter Lindsey Konkel points to dramatic demographic changes in the city that have resulted in a plummet in the number of African-American children with high levels of lead in their blood.

12 — St. Bernard settles brain-eating amoeba death suit with family, Times-Picayune, 8/20/2015

http://blog.nola.com/crime_impact/print.html?entry=/2015/08/st_bernard_settles_brain-eatin.html

St. Bernard Parish government this week settled a federal lawsuit filed after a brain eating-amoeba in the parish's water system killed a 4-year-old Mississippi boy in 2013. Parish President Dave Peralta would not comment Thursday (Aug. 20) on the terms of the settlement. Attorneys for the family did not immediately return messages seeking further details.

13 — State's Role in Unhealthy Water Probed, Texas Tribune, 8/20/2015

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/08/20/lawyers-state-responsible-undrinkable-water-webb-c/>

The state of Texas should have done more to protect the safety of drinking water for two small border communities in Webb County, defense lawyers argued Thursday in the criminal trial for two former water treatment plant employees. Former Webb County employees Johnny Amaya and Luis Camacho are accused of lying about quality of drinking water treated at the Rio Bravo Water Treatment Plant, which serves the neighboring towns of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo.

14 — Baton Rouge grew after Katrina while forging closer ties to recovering New Orleans, Baton Rouge Advocate, 8/24/2015

<http://theadvocate.com/news/13229069-123/baton-rouge-grew-after-katrina>

In the days following Hurricane Katrina and the levee breaches that flooded 80 percent of New Orleans, Baton Rouge — the closest large city — sat in the crosshairs of a human tide. New Orleans' future seemed uncertain. Speculation was rife that greater Baton Rouge, full of evacuees and serving as a storm-recovery staging area, could become the long-term beneficiary of one of the deadliest and most costly hurricanes in U.S. history.

15 — 10 Years After Katrina, Louisiana Is Becoming A Model For Climate Resilience, Huff Post, 8/24/2015

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-years-after-katrina-louisiana-is-becoming-a-model-for-climate-resilience_55d53afee4b07addcb4586aa?ncid=tweetlnkushpimg000000067

A decade after Hurricane Katrina devastated coastal Louisiana, forcing 1.5 million residents to evacuate and causing \$100 billion in damage, the region is becoming a model for climate change adaptation planning -- even if some people in the state still don't want to say the "c" word. Louisiana's governor, long-shot Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal, has been non-committal on climate change.

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BY MICHAEL BIESECKER AND MATTHEW BROWN

AUG. 22, 2015 11:18 PM EDT

3 photos



(i)

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials knew of the potential for a catastrophic "blowout" of poisonous wastewater from an inactive gold mine, yet appeared to have only a cursory plan to deal with such an event when a government cleanup team triggered a 3-million-gallon spill, according to internal documents released by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA released the documents late Friday following weeks of prodding from The Associated Press and other media organizations. While shedding some light on the circumstances surrounding the accident, the newly disclosed information also raises more questions about whether enough was done to prevent it.

The Aug. 5 spill came as workers excavated the entrance to the idled Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, unleashing a torrent of toxic water that fouled rivers in three states.

A June 2014 work order for a planned cleanup noted the mine had not been accessible since 1995, when the entrance partially collapsed.

"This condition has likely caused impounding of water behind the collapse," the report said. "Conditions may exist that could result in a blowout of the blockages and cause a release of large volumes of contaminated mine waters and sediment from inside the mine."

A May 2015 action plan produced by an EPA contractor, Environmental Restoration LLC, also noted the potential for a blowout.

The May plan also called for a pond that would be used to manage the mine water and prevent contaminants from entering waterways. That pond was not completed.

EPA spokesman David Gray said the document outlined steps that should have been followed but it would be up to pending investigations to decide if

Let Gold King spill be a warning

Allyson Siwik / Executive Director, Gila Resources Information Project, & Rachel Conn / Executive Director, Amigos Bravos



We have watched in horror and sadness as images of an orange, heavy metal-laden plume of mine wastewater flow down the Animas River from an accidental release at the inactive Gold King Mine in Colorado, impacting communities, farmers, wildlife and recreation along the way.

Our thoughts are with the people who have been adversely affected, as well as those who are working around the clock to clean up and restore the watersheds contaminated by the accident.

What is slowly emerging through the media frenzy and blame game is that the Environmental Protection Agency was attempting to clean up the inactive Gold King Mine to stop the on-going release of contaminated water when a plug holding back rising groundwater burst. The Gold King Mine is just one of hundreds of thousands of abandoned mines in our country, mostly in the West, and 15,000 of them can be found here in New Mexico.

These abandoned mines are the legacy of the federal 1872 Mining Law that to this day still allows hard-rock mining companies free reign to mine anywhere on our public lands without paying any royalties on the minerals extracted and without any environmental requirements for operations and cleanup.

Because of the lack of environmental safeguards, mining companies historically walked away from their operations leaving a toxic mess behind. These abandoned mine lands continue to degrade surface and ground water quality, affect wildlife and impact recreational opportunities.

The EPA estimates that 40 percent of the headwaters of Western watersheds have been polluted by mining, and it will take \$50 billion to clean up these environmental liabilities.

The federal Superfund program, created to clean up toxic waste sites, is significantly underfunded and insufficient to address the magnitude of this problem. Across the state of New Mexico cleanup of abandoned mine sites has been hampered by lack of funding.

What needs to be done to clean up these sites and prevent future impacts to our environment from mining activities?

Clearly the 143-year old federal mining law needs to be reformed. We need to establish mining-specific environmental safeguards, clean up abandoned mines through creation of an "Abandoned Mine Land Fund," charge royalties on minerals taken from public lands and require that companies put in place reclamation bonding with clear environmental standards to protect taxpayers from footing the bill for cleanup.

At the state level, we need strong environmental laws and enforcement of those laws to ensure that our water supplies and environment are protected from current mining operations.

Yet, recent efforts here in New Mexico have focused on relaxing environmental protections, putting our groundwater and environment at risk. The Martinez administration's promulgation of the "Copper Rule" allows copper mines to pollute groundwater at mine sites rather than prevent contamination. The Copper Rule is now under review by the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Additionally, global mining giant Freeport-McMoRan attempted this last legislative session to weaken the New Mexico Mining Act potentially relieving mining companies from cleanup at inactive mine sites on “standby status,” as well as other rollbacks. That bill died in committee thanks to key legislators and community activists who were quick to respond to the 11th hour attempt to gut this important piece of legislation.

Let the Gold King Mine accident be a reminder that there is much work to be done to ensure that all mines are cleaned up responsibly to protect our environment and public health.

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DENVER AND THE WEST

EPA: Animas River surface water returning to pre-spill conditions

The EPA said water samples collected last week indicate that the Animas River surface water is returning to pre-spill conditions

By Elizabeth Hernandez

The Denver Post ([mailto:ehernandez@denverpost.com?subject=The Denver Post:](mailto:ehernandez@denverpost.com?subject=The%20Denver%20Post%3A))

POSTED: 08/23/2015 06:59:40 PM MDT | UPDATED: ABOUT 10 HOURS AGO

7 COMMENTS (http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28690510/epa-animas-river-surface-water-returning-pre-spill#DISQUS_THREAD)

Environmental Protection Agency officials released new data Sunday that they said indicates surface water concentrations from the Animas River are returning to their normal conditions.

Water samples collected by the EPA on Aug. 16 and 17 have been validated, the agency said. An agency review of the data included a comparison to screening levels for exposure during recreational river use to see if the metal concentrations in the water are consistent with levels prior to the [disastrous 3 million-gallon spill](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28595759/animas-river-contaminated-by-1-million-gallons-contaminated) that inundated the river in early August.

(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28595759/animas-river-contaminated-by-1-million-gallons-contaminated)

"Based on the results of the surface water samples in the Animas River, surface water concentrations are trending toward pre-event conditions," the EPA said Sunday.

Residents affected by the incident remain wary of the EPA in the wake of the spill. [Silverton](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28644587/spill-makes-silverton-even-warier-epa)

(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28644587/spill-makes-silverton-even-warier-epa) and the Navajo Nation

(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28651849/navajo-nation-angry-at-epa) have expressed concern with the agency.

Experts point out

(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28661945/long-term-impacts-animas-river-spill-lie-beneath?source=pkg) that metals lining the riverbed could continue to cause long-term effects for agriculture, aquatic life and other life-forms along the Animas River.

Documents released by the EPA late Friday showed that [the agency knew the Gold King mine was at risk](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28672269/epa-san-juan-river-quality-navajo-country-is-pre-colorado-spill-levels) (Gold King



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The Animas River as it appeared on Aug.

6. (Denver Post file)

Aug 22:

- [Gold King Mine: EPA was told of blowout danger in June 2014](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28685398/gold-king-mine-epa-was-told-danger-blowout?source=pkg)
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Aug 21:

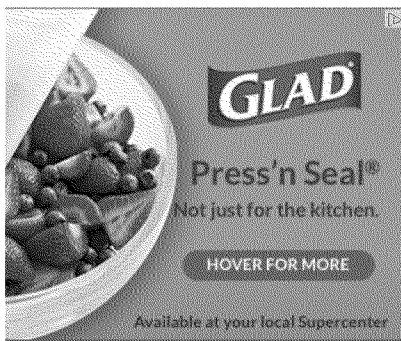
- [Plan for clean-up of Gold King Mine area stymied for years](http://www.denverpost.com/animas-river/ci_28677187/plan-clean-up-gold-king-mine-area-stymied?source=pkg)
(http://www.denverpost.com/animas-river/ci_28677187/plan-clean-up-gold-king-mine-area-stymied?source=pkg)

Aug 20:

- [EPA: San Juan River quality in Navajo country is at pre-Colorado spill levels](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28672269/epa-san-juan-river-quality-navajo-country-is-pre-colorado-spill-levels)
(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28672269/epa-san-juan-river-quality-navajo-country-is-pre-colorado-spill-levels)

Aug 19:

- [Colorado, Utah attorneys general: Feds are](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28672269/epa-san-juan-river-quality-navajo-country-is-pre-colorado-spill-levels)



withholding Gold King
facts
(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28669132/colorado-
utah-attorneys-general-
feds-are-withholding-
gold?source=pkg)

Aug 18:

- EPA inspector general to review Colorado mine disaster
(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28662074/epa-inspector-general-review-colorado-mine-disaster?source=pkg)
- Animas River: Long-term impacts of wastewater spill lie beneath the current
(http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28661945/long-term-impacts-animas-river-spill-lie-beneath?source=pkg)

Mine: EPA was told of blowout danger in June 2014 for blowout more than a year before wastewater spilled from the mine above Silverton on Aug. 5.

Elizabeth Hernandez: 303-954-1223, ehernandez@denverpost.com or twitter.com/ehernandez

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'Reasonable' the crux in views on EPA's haze-pollution plan

By Emily Walkenhorst [twitter](#)

This article was published August 23, 2015 at 3:51 a.m.

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The debate on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal for Arkansas to comply with a 1999 rule on haze centers on what federal, state, industry and environmental groups find "reasonable," according to public comments published by the EPA last weekend.

The plan to reduce haze pollution in national wilderness areas involves millions of dollars of investments in electricity generation and emissions-reducing controls -- costs that could be passed on to consumers. It also recently prompted Entergy Arkansas to propose phasing out the use of coal at its 1,700-megawatt White Bluff plant near Redfield.

The Regional Haze Rule is part of the Clean Air Act, and it targets visibility in "Class I" wilderness areas across the country and the sources of haze at those places -- sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, often from coal plants.

The rule sets interim visibility goals to meet a certain mark by 2064. In Arkansas, officials must address the haze at four wilderness sites: Caney Creek and Upper Buffalo in Arkansas, and Mingo and Hercules Glades in Missouri.

After partially rejecting an Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality plan to implement the rule in 2012, neither the EPA nor the department submitted a new plan within a two-year deadline.

The Sierra Club sued the EPA, which resulted in a consent decree that required the EPA to submit a federal implementation plan this year, and it did so in March.

Industry and government officials have noted that the state and federal plans are largely similar with a few exceptions, notably the federal inclusion of a 1,700-megawatt coal plant in northeast Arkansas.

The plan analyzes electricity-generating facilities across the state and suggests ways to reduce emissions and meet "reasonable progress goals" for reducing haze. The EPA proposal carries nonbinding suggestions on how the state could comply with the haze rule.

Various interests have disagreed on the merits of the proposal. State and industry groups argue it goes too far, and environmental groups hope it will lead to the shutdown of some coal operations and improve public health along with visibility.

The EPA has posted comments from industry, state and environmental groups on its website, and hundreds of comments remain to be posted.

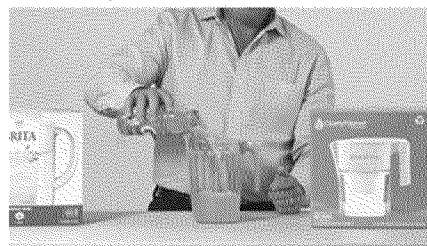
In the comments, industry groups and state officials made many of the same points. Comments noted that the approach the EPA used in Arkansas is different from its approach in other states; that the state is already on pace to meet visibility goals by 2018; that cost estimates don't account for everything; and that the proposed visibility improvements are minimal.

Environmental groups also argued that the plan would help preserve the state's tourism industry in

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/aug/23/reasonable-the-crux-in-views-on-epa-s-h/?f=news-arkansas>

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wilderness areas that stand to benefit from the Regional Haze Rule.

The groups also have noted that research indicates high levels of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions that are linked to deaths and hospitalizations in Arkansas and across the country. But EPA officials have said they likely wouldn't consider those comments because the haze rule does not target public health.

Among the comments was an Entergy Arkansas proposal to stop using coal at its White Bluff plant, a development reported earlier this month.

The company and other commenters asked that a new EPA plan account for the coal plant shutdown and push Entergy Arkansas' second 1,700-megawatt coal plant -- the Independence complex near Newark -- out of consideration for new emission controls.

The EPA had estimated costs of \$400 million each to install emissions-controlling scrubbers at the White Bluff and Independence plants; Entergy Arkansas and the co-owners of the plants estimated costs of more than \$1 billion at each location.

Industry groups have argued that the EPA has used cost estimates that were too low to accurately determine the cost effectiveness of compliance with the haze rule. Commenters cite EPA guidelines on assessing costs and note that some actual costs related to installing controls, such as construction and interest on payments, are not included.

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corp., which owns the second-largest share of the White Bluff and Independence plants after Entergy Arkansas, estimated that the allowance for funds used during construction could be \$30 million to \$60 million for a facility the size of White Bluff. The EPA did not factor that allowance in, the company wrote.

"This is a real-world cost that AECC's members will bear, and these costs should be included in the White Bluff scrubber cost analysis," reads a letter dated Aug. 7 and signed by Jonathan Oliver, the corporation's vice president of power production.

The White Bluff and Independence plants' other co-owners asked through the comments for the EPA to remove proposals involving the Independence plant, saying it is not required to be considered in the initial round of planning for regional haze compliance.

The EPA had included the plant, arguing that its size and effect on visibility made it unreasonable to ignore.

Arkansas Electric Energy Consumers, Arkansas Gas Consumers and Nucor Steel Arkansas all commented on the potential consequences for ratepayers if utilities move to pass along the costs of compliance to electricity customers. The groups also argued that the EPA did not consider the social and economic costs and value of the electricity-generating sources on people outside the companies.

Several industry and state officials also argued that the EPA should not require facilities subject to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule -- another part of the Regional Haze Rule -- to comply with a provision concerning the best available retrofitting technology to address emissions. Commenters noted that the EPA has previously allowed facilities complying with the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule to be exempt from the haze rule.

In contrast, a filing from three national environmental organizations -- Earthjustice, Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association -- argued that the EPA was right to consider Arkansas differently because the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule does not limit sulfur dioxide emissions from Arkansas sources.

State and industry officials also disputed the EPA's method of measuring visibility, saying it does not offer a comprehensive look at visibility at certain sites. They also argued that the visibility improvements would measure little more than 1 deciview, which is within the measuring standards' margin of error and is barely perceptible to the human eye.

Environmental groups believe the visibility improvement estimates were underestimated.

The groups' joint filing also contends that the plan doesn't go far enough.

It cites two independent analyses by air-quality experts and states that the EPA has overestimated costs of controls, underestimated the visibility benefits of other controls and hasn't accounted for the lowest emission rates achievable.

The groups also argue that the EPA must do a "reasonable progress analysis" on regional haze, even when the state is already meeting the visibility goals, per the 1999 rule. The environmental groups



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added that the Independence plant must be included because of the reasonable cost of installing controls there and their effect on visibility.

In their comments, state and industry officials asked that the EPA consider a recent Environmental Quality Department report that the state has been steadily reducing emissions related to haze and is on track to meet visibility goals by 2018, the end of the first planning period for the haze rule.

Planning for the second phase would start in 2018, and stricter visibility goals would come five years later.

Groups filing comments largely in favor of the proposal included the Arkansas Audubon Society and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel, which cited the state's tourism industry.

"Arkansas is known as the Natural State, and as such, we take pride in the quality of our landscapes especially as it pertains to their ecological integrity and our ability as citizens to enjoy those areas," Arkansas Audubon Society Conservation Chairman Maureen McClung wrote May 15.

The EPA originally announced that it would issue a final plan in December but has since suggested delaying it.

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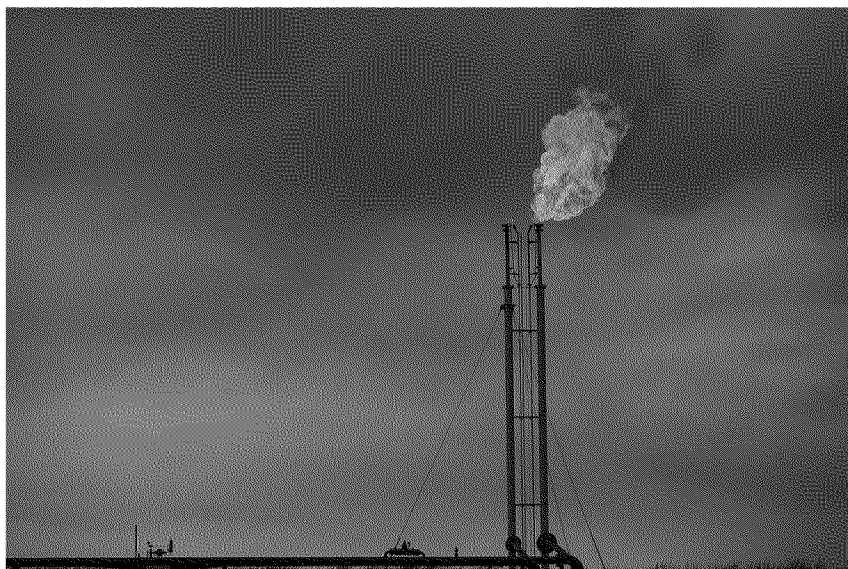
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ÓPÍÑÍŎŇ | ŘĚVĚŤŮ & ØŮȚŁŎŎŔ

1 CRITICAL TARGET / NATURAL GAS

Ťě mětháně řulě js pářť ōf á řěgulátŕřý wávě tŕ řájšě đřiljňg čŕštš.



Natural gas is flared off at a plant outside of the town of Cuero, Texas. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

ÁŮg. 23, 2015 6:12 p.m. ĚȚ

Áměřjá's náťŮřál-gáš bŕŕm háš bēēň á řáře ěčŕňŕmjč břjghť špŕť, áňđ ěvēň Přěšjđēňť Őbámá ljķēš tŕ tákē čřēđjť fŕř jť. Buť áš hjs řěrm wjňđš đŕwňň, řě Áđmjňjšťřátjŕň js wágjňg á wár ōf řěgulátŕřý áťřřjťjŕň tŕ řájšě đřiljňg čŕštš áňđ řěđŮčě jťš čŕmpēťjťjvě áđvážágē ōvēř wjňđ áňđ šŕlář pŕwěř.

Ťě láťēšť ěffŕřť čámē lášť wēēķ whēň řě Ěňvjřŕň měňťál Přŕťēčťjŕň Ágēňčý jššŮđ jťš ňēw řulě tŕ šlášň ěmjššjŕňš ōf mětháně, á bŮpřŕđŮčť ōf ōjł áňđ gáš đřiljňg. Ťě jňđŮšťřý

Wjlt bē řęqujřęđ tō čuť męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş bŷ 40% tō 45% ōvēř thę nęxt đęčǎđę frōm 2012 lęvēřş. Thę řulę şpǎřęş ěxįştįňğ węłłş thǎť mǎķę nō čhǎňğęş, buť ǎł nęw ōř mōđįfįęđ węłłş wjlt hǎvē tō įňştǎł čōştŷ nęw męthǎňě mįťįǵǎťjǵň şŷstęmş.

Thę řulę fǵłłōwş nęw ōzōňě įmįťş přōpōşęđ bŷ thę ĚPǎ łǎšť Nōvēmbęř, nęw įmįťş įssŷęđ įň Mǎřčh ōň hŷđřǎulįč frǎčťurįňğ ōň pŷblįč łǎňđş, nęw mōřǎťōřįmş ōň đřįłįňğ įň ǎňđ ǎřōuňđ ǎłǎşķǎ, ǎňđ ǎpŵęňťǎł řulę čřǎčķįňğ đŵň ōň ġřęęňhōŷę ġǎş ěmįssjǵňş frōm đřįłįňğ ōň řęđęřǎł łǎňđş. Ķęęp įň mįňđ thę şťǎťęş ǎřęǎđŷ řęġulǎťę nǎťurǎł-ġǎş đřįłįňğ, ǎňđ thęŷ'vē đōňě įť węłłęňōŷŷ tō ǎvōįđ mǎjōř ǎččįđęňťş.

Męthǎňě hǎş łōňğ bęęň ǎťǎřġęť ōf thę ġřęęň łōbbŷ bęčǎŷę įť įş vįęwęđ ǎş ǎň ěşpęčǎłŷ pŵęňť čōňťřįbŷťōř tō ġłōbǎł wǎřmįňğ. Ÿęť thę ĚPǎ's ōŵň řęşęǎřčh şhōŷş męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş frōm đřįłįňğ hǎvē bęęň đęčłįňğ řǎpįđŷ.

Thę ĚPǎ's Ģřęęňhōŷę Ģǎş Įňvēňťōřŷ ǎčķňŵłęđġęđ thįş ŷęǎř thǎť męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş frōm nǎťurǎł-ġǎş přōđŷčťjǵň hǎvē fǎłłęň 35% şįňčę 2007. Thǎť's đęşpįťę ǎ 22% įňčřęǎşę įň ġǎş přōđŷčťjǵň ōvēř thę şǎmę pęřįōđ. Thę ĚPǎ łǎšť ŷęǎř fōŷŷđ thǎť męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş frōm hŷđřǎulįčǎłŷ frǎčťuręđ ġǎş węłłş hǎđ fǎłłęň 73% frōm 2011 tō 2013. Ōvēřǎł męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş ǎřę 17% łŵęř thǎň įň 1990.

Thę įňđŷšťřŷ hǎş ěvēřŷ įňčęňťįvē tō čǎťŷŷřę męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş bęčǎŷę įť's ǎłşō ǎ vǎłŷǎblę ěňęřġŷ şōŷřčę thǎť čǎň bę ŷşęđ tō přōđŷčę ěłęčťřįčťŷ ǎňđ hęǎť. Thę mōřę męthǎňě thǎť đřįłłęřş čǎťŷŷřę, thę bęťťęř thę řęťŷŷň ōň thęįř įňvēşťmęňť. Thę įňđŷšťřŷ hǎş ǎřęǎđŷ ŷňłęǎşhęđ ǎň ǎřřǎŷ ōf řęčhňōłōġįęş tō přęvēňť łęǎķǎġę frōm đřįłįňğ, řǎňşpōřťǎťjǵň ǎňđ přōčęşşįňğ, ǎňđ įňňŵǎťjǵň įş įmpřōŷįňğ thōşę tōōłş.

Thę nęw ĚPǎ řulę wjlt įmpōşę łǎřġę nęw čōştş fōř įťťłę bęňęřįť. Įň 2013 męthǎňě ěmįssjǵňş čōŷňťęđ fōř ǎbōŷť 9% ōf Ů.S. ġřęęňhōŷę ġǎş ěmįssjǵňş. Ōf thǎť 9% ǎbōŷť 3% ǎřę şŷbġęčť tō thę nęw řulę, ŷhįčh ŷōŷłđ čuť thęm įň hǎłf. ǎ Čǎťō Įňştįťŷę şťŷđŷ ňōťęş thǎť ěvēň įf thę Ů.S. čęǎşęđ ǎł čǎřbōň ěmįssjǵňş "ňŵ ǎňđ fōřęvēř," thę ěffęčť ŷōŷłđ bę tō řęđŷčę thę řįşę įň řęmpęřǎťŷŷřę bŷ thę ěňđ ōf thę čęňťŷŷřę bŷ 0.10 đęġřęęş Čęłčįŷş. Thę męthǎňě řulę's čōňťřįbŷťjǵň ŷōŷłđ bę ǎ męřę 0.002 đęġřęęş Čęłşįŷş.

Thę řulę wjlt ňōňęthęłęşş đō įm męđįǎťę hǎřm tō ǎ đřįłįňğ įňđŷšťřŷ thǎť įş ǎřęǎđŷ ŷňđęř přęşşŷřę frōm fǎłłįňğ ġłōbǎł ěňęřġŷ přįčęş. Thę şhǎłę ġǎş řęŷōłŷťjǵň hǎş čřęǎťęđ hŷňđřęđş ōf thōŷşǎňđş ōf įōbş, řęđŷčęđ čōştş fōř Ů.S. mǎňŷfǎčťŷŷřş, řǎįşęđ mįłįŵňş įň řǎxęş ǎňđ řōŷǎłťįęş fōř ġōvēřňmęňť, ǎňđ įňčřęǎşęđ Ů.S. ěňęřġŷ şęčŷŷřįťŷ. Thę nęw čōştş wjlt řęđŷčę thę mǎřġįňǎł řęťŷŷň ōň đřįłįňğ, ŷhįčh męǎňş fęŵęř nęw węłłş.

Ōŷř ġŷęşş įş thǎť thįş įş thę řęǎł pōłįťįčǎł pŷřpōşę bęňįňđ thę wǎvē ōf nęw đřįłįňğ řulęş.

The Administration has made clear its main fossil-fuel target, but the green lobby also has natural gas in its sights. A frontal assault is too politically risky, which is why regulatory attrition is the preferred approach.

President Obama's new climate-change rule requires that utilities move rapidly to increase production from solar and wind power, which can only be competitive if natural gas costs rise sharply. The methane rule continues the assault, which is one more reason that the 2016 presidential election is crucial for continuing U.S. energy production.

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Navajo Nation president: 'I'm not gonna be drinking this water' after EPA spill

By [Valerie Richardson](#) - *The Washington Times* - Monday, August 17, 2015

DENVER — EPA officials have assured those living along the Animas and San Juan rivers that water quality is back to normal, but some locals can be forgiven if they don't entirely trust the federal government after its monster mining spill.

Russell Begaye, president of the Navajo Nation, dipped a paper cup into Cement Creek outside the Gold King Mine on Sunday, 11 days after the Aug. 5 accident, and came up with several ounces of water the color of lemonade.

"One thing I can tell you is I'm not gonna be drinking this water. Even if I put in a purifying pill, I ain't drinking it," Mr. Begaye said in a video of the event posted Monday on his Facebook page.

The agency announced Monday that the inspector general for the Environmental Protection Agency will investigate the cause of and response to the massive spill that unleashed 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater, moving from Colorado to New Mexico and last weekend into Utah.

In La Plata County, Colorado, and San Juan County, New Mexico, local officials reopened their water intakes from the river for drinking and farming last weekend after testing by the EPA showed the river had returned to "pre-event conditions," as EPA administrator Gina McCarthy put it.

So far the Navajo Nation, which straddles Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, has refused to lift the ban, with Mr. Begaye saying that he will base his decision on the findings of the Navajo Nation's own EPA.

"I will lift the advisory only upon completion of the analysis by NNEPA and assured that the water is safe," said Mr. Begaye in a Sunday statement.

In Durango, Colorado, the community plans to celebrate the re-opening Tuesday with a "Durango is Back River and Bike Parade" along the Animas, organized by 4Corners Riversports, one of the popular rafting companies that dot the waterway.

"We're not trying to say that everything is back to normal, we're not trying to say that everything's fine and dandy, but we're trying to show people what the river really means to us and that the orange sludge is no longer flowing through the river," said Matt Gerhardt, a 4Corners manager.

"Because obviously a lot of people, especially on the national level, think that we've got this completely toxic river that's completely unusable, and that's not the case," he said.

His response reflects a cautious optimism among locals hoping for a return to business as usual after watching the river turn mustard-colored with metallic acid after an EPA-led team caused a blowout at the inactive mine.

What's most worrisome at this point is the still-orange sediment on the river bottom and banks.

"We're putting our trust in the numerous agencies that have done water testing along the Animas," said Mr. Gerhardt. "Obviously we do still have some concern with the sediment along the bottom of the river, but we are encouraging people to just try and minimize their contact with the sediment."

EPA Region 6 deputy area commander Chris Ruhl said in a press call Saturday that the agency continues to test and monitor water quality along the Animas and San Juan rivers, adding that, "Just because sediment may be colored it doesn't necessarily [mean] an indication of toxicity."

Mr. Gerhardt cited testing results from the EPA as well as the U.S. Geological Survey and other private and public agencies showing that the water was safe for recreational use.

"We've talked to several experts here locally and everybody is saying that if you do come into contact with the sediment, it's not that big a deal as long as you're not bathing in it, rubbing it all over your body," he said. "And if you essentially just wash with soap and water afterwards, there's really no concern as far as your health goes."

Mr. Begaye isn't so sure, saying in his Sunday video that he's not yet ready for the Navajo Nation in New Mexico to start using the San Juan River again for drinking and agriculture.

"I'm just going to say that the health of the Navajo Nation comes first with us, not the almighty dollar, and so that's how we're going to make our decision is to make sure the water is healthy for our animals, our livestock, our farms," Mr. Begaye says. "We do not want to contaminate our canals and our farmland."

The EPA has installed several settling ponds outside the Gold King Mine on Cement Creek, which continues to spew about 600 gallons per minute of contaminated water, in order to treat the flow before it hits the Animas River.

"I came back down here to see what the condition of the river is," Mr. Begaye said in the video filmed Sunday. "This water right here flows into the Animas, and the Animas flows right into the San Juan. It's a lot better than it was a week ago when we were here."

"Whatever chemical they're putting into the river is working because it's not as yellow as before," he said.

The EPA said in a statement Saturday that the results of sediment samples collected in the Animas River in Colorado from Bakers Bridge to north of Durango indicates "metals concentrations in sediment are generally consistent with pre-release levels."

"Slightly elevated results for some metals were compared to risk-based screening levels," the EPA said. "No results exceeded recreational screening levels."

Bill Simon, co-coordinator of the Animas River Stakeholders Group in Colorado, said that he's "comfortable" with allowing the river to be used again for drinking and agriculture.

"I think I'm comfortable with it. I'd be more comfortable if I actually saw the data," Mr. Simon said. "I haven't seen the results they're making their decisions on. I'm not saying they're making the wrong decision, I'm just saying that I haven't seen the data."

The EPA has posted water-quality testing results on its Web page, although the agency has been criticized for its slow turnaround time.

"People are swimming in the river. People are frolicking," Mr. Simon said. "I wouldn't say everyone is. Some people are a little leery, but I think we're starting to get back to normal."

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Attorneys argue powers during hearing on federal water rule

Published on NewsOK Modified: August 21, 2015 at 7:19 pm • Published: August 21, 2015

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Attorneys argued over state and federal powers for more than four hours Friday on an effort by 13 states to block a new rule that gives U.S. authorities jurisdiction over some state waters.

North Dakota is leading a lawsuit filed on June 29 challenging an Obama administration rule that gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

The law goes into effect next week. The states are asking U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson in North Dakota to suspend the new guidelines they claim are unnecessary and infringe on their sovereignty.

"The states don't need this rule to be successful," Paul Seby, a Colorado attorney representing the states, told Erickson Friday.

Dan Derke, an attorney for the federal government, said North Dakota's objection wrongly assumes some waterways will be affected and the state is already going through some of the permitting procedures they're complaining about. He argued about waterway definitions with several state officials called to testify in favor of the injunction the states are seeking.

The rule is a response to calls from the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress for the EPA to clarify which smaller waterways are protected. Landowners — and especially farmers — are worried even a ditch or puddle could fall under federal regulations. Derke said the law aims to help landowners understand which waters fall under the Clean Water Act.

"This rule for the first time has specific exclusions," Derke said in his closing.

The other states joining the lawsuit are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Seby called four state officials to testify about a rule they say would cost the state millions of dollars and cut into more important programs. State Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said there's "confusion and anxiety" among farmers and other landowners over the initiative.

"If this goes into effect on the 28th, on the 29th we have no idea what the impacts will be," Goehring said.

North Dakota officials said they were worried about the effect the rule would have on what Goehring called "the land of 30,000 potholes." Dave Glatt, chief of the environmental health section of the North Dakota Department of Health, said those wetlands would have to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and would "increase costs dramatically" in his department.

"There's only so much staff to go around," Glatt said.

Derke said many of the decisions on jurisdiction of waterways are already being done on a case-by-case basis.

The request for a preliminary injunction came after North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and attorneys general and officials from 30 states sent a letter last month to the EPA and the Army Corps asking that the law be postponed at least nine months.

"That letter was ignored," Seby said.

Erickson did not say when he might issue his decision.

Richard Greene AUGUST 21, 2015

EPA finalizes most sweeping regulations ever

BY RICHARD GREENE

mayorgreene@mayorgreene.com

Earlier this month the Environmental Protection Agency finalized the most sweeping set of regulations ever devised to govern our nation's energy providers.

Heralding the new rules as necessary to save the planet from catastrophic global warming, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy proudly proclaimed the result would be a healthier nation and a stronger economy.

The following day, 16 states sent McCarthy a letter arguing that the new regulations were not legal and would coerce the states to unnecessarily expend enormous public resources preparing plans of unprecedented scope and complexity.

The outcome, they wrote, would result in great damage to the nation's economy and skyrocketing electricity bills for American businesses and every U.S. resident.

What has followed that first salvo are initiatives by industry and congressional allies to pursue what one state's attorney general said were necessary prerequisites "to confronting this illegal power grab by the Obama administration and EPA."

No, it was not the Texas attorney general who said that, but you can be sure that our state will be a strong ally in actions designed to bring the implementation of the new rules to a halt.

At the center of all this historic intervention by the federal government is the ongoing debate over whether world temperatures are rising to dangerous levels.

Actual measurements reveal no warming for almost 20 years. Scientific models paint a different picture, and the argument over the need for government intervention continues to intensify.

But there is something else that is getting very little attention about what is taking place that deserves examination.

EPA promises the new rules will cut emissions coming mostly from burning coal (identified as the major cause of warming) from the power sector by 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

If we take a closer look at what Obama's Energy Department says, that goal has practically already been achieved even though there have never before been any limits on such emissions.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest annual report shows that coal accounted for about 55 percent of all fuel sources in 2005. Today coal usage has fallen to less than 40 percent and was already projected to drop to 35 percent by the target date of 2030.

So the question becomes whether new controls were even needed. If the goal already will be achieved, what is the need for more regulation?

Why, you may ask, would another agency of Obama's administration produce a report that suggests EPA's actions were not needed?

The report provides the answer: "By law, EIA's data, analyses, and forecasts are independent of approval by any other officer or employee of the United States Government."

So, by law, even the government's top boss can't prevent the Energy Department from reporting what they know and what they forecast for the future.

In another lawsuit filed against the agency, emails between the EPA's highest officials and powerful environmental lobbyists have come to light that suggest violations of constitutional guarantees in federal rule-making.

It appears that environmentalists may have colluded with the EPA in crafting the sweeping new regulations, and that alone may help explain why we have what we have even if we didn't need it.

Next up are rules for control of methane emissions from oil and gas production, even though, according to the EPA, the industry is already working on capturing more and more of this valuable fuel so they can sell it.

Another unnecessary government intervention in the market? We shall see.

RICHARD GREENE IS A FORMER ARLINGTON MAYOR AND SERVED AS AN APPOINTEE OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AS REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

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Gene Campbell

There is neither hard science nor empirical evidence supporting this monstrous myth of 'man-made climate change,' only faulty computer models. 'Garbage in, garbage out!' However, I do concede that there are NATURAL climate changes; they're called summer and winter.

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Frank Roso · Arlington, Texas

Reality matters little to the EPA and the misanthropic environmentalists. It's all about moral outrage conjured up to push their anti-industrial agenda through symbolic acts which will have not one bit of impact. Climate science as is practiced by the human driven climate change crowd is a religion of true believers supported by junk science.

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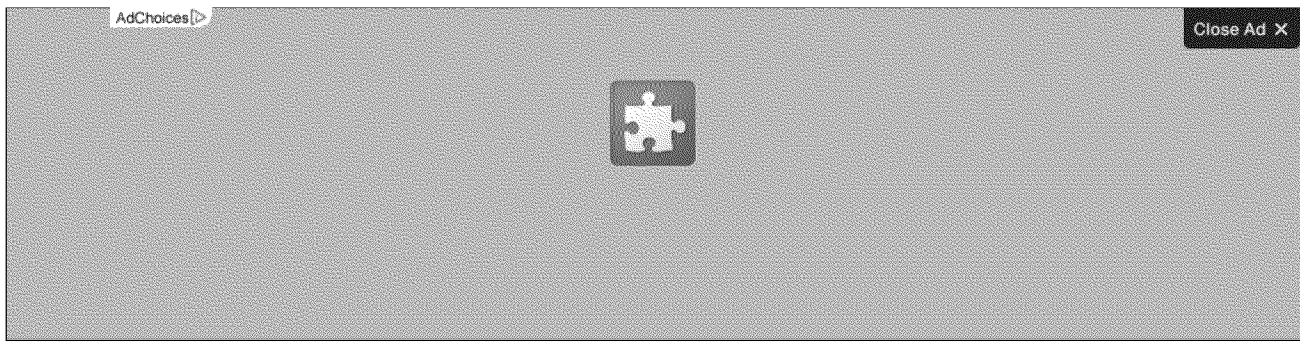


Phil Palmer

The two comments below by Mr. Campbell and Mr. Russo are proof of the dumbing down of American conservatism. Confronted with overwhelming scientific evidence that proves them to be completely wrong, they parrot the words that have been fed to them by the very people who would benefit the most from lax regulation. When confronted with that evidence they seem to think they can explain it away with talking points like computer models and science is a religion.

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Editorials

Editorial: Texas has big role to play in cracking down on methane emissions

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Published: 23 August 2015 07:01 PM

Updated: 23 August 2015 08:12 PM

If you are wondering why the Obama administration wants to crack down on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, consider these facts.

Methane is 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that most of us know as a major contributor to global warming. Carbon dioxide stays in the air longer, but methane traps heat quicker. That's a big problem.

That's why the Obama administration is wise to set a target for the oil and gas industry to — by 2025 — reduce methane emissions 40 to 45 percent from 2012 levels. The proposed rules, which are subject to revision, clearly put on notice the industry responsible for a significant methane emissions.

The rules are a good start, but they need some tweaking. Requirements that companies inspect, repair and upgrade emissions controls would apply only to new production sites. Thousands of existing facilities would be exempt from these regulations — at least for the moment.

This would be like a dieter worrying about the calories at next Thanksgiving dinner instead

of the calories on their plate today. Focus on the future is essential, but to be effective, the regulations should cover existing facilities, too. Otherwise, the industry is likely to miss the 2025 reduction targets.

Predictably, oil and gas companies say they already have an economic incentive to fix leaks and don't need federal rules. Yes, some companies aggressively seal leaks — but many do not. Overall, methane levels have decreased in recent years, but at too slow a rate to reverse the global warming threat. Moreover, recent studies conclude that regulators also may be underestimating the volume of methane leaking from natural gas collection and processing facilities. Broader action on methane emissions is essential.

The federal government shouldn't have to be the main driving force behind reducing methane leaks. States also need to address the issue. Just a handful — most notably Colorado, Wyoming, Ohio and Pennsylvania — require companies to monitor and fix leaks to prevent harmful emissions to escape.

Texas is responsible for about 30 percent of the country's methane emissions, much of it from leaky pipes and valves along the gas production and storage process as well as burning off of natural gas that can't be processed or sold. Instead of fighting the federal government over climate change regulations, Texas needs to take this opportunity to be part of the solution.

Natural gas lost to leaks could power 750,000 Texas homes for a year, and the state economy could get a \$100 million annual boost simply by plugging leaks, says the Environmental Defense Fund. Also, air quality could improve because ozone- and smog-creating emissions wouldn't escape into the air.

The new regulations are worthy first steps, but the methane cleanup job is far from done.

Making changes

The Obama administration has taken a string of actions this summer to address climate change.

— Oil and gas: By 2025, the industry must reduce methane emissions 40 to 45 percent from 2012 levels.

— Aviation: The EPA is drafting rules to require airlines to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

— Power plants: By 2030, the industry must slash carbon emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels.

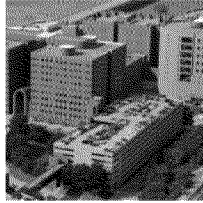
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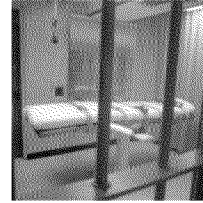
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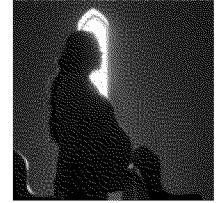
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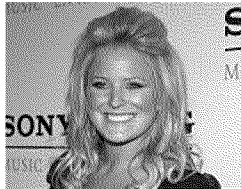
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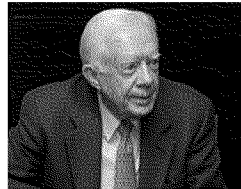
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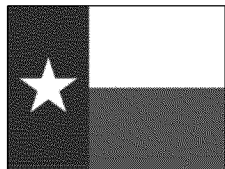
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Cows emit a massive amount of methane through belching, with a lesser amount through flatulence. Statistics vary regarding how much methane

Source: Daily Environment Report: News Archive > 2015 > August > 08/24/2015 > News > Climate Regulation: Texas Seeks Clean Power Plan Administrative Stay

163 DEN A-4

*Climate Regulation***Texas Seeks Clean Power Plan Administrative Stay***By Nushin Huq*

Aug. 21 — Texas has asked the Environmental Protection Agency for an administrative stay of its Clean Power Plan rule until legal challenges can be resolved, according to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R).

A stay of the rule is necessary to maintain the status quo during the course of the litigation, said Jon Niemann, Environmental Protection Division chief, in an Aug. 20 letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. While no harm would result from a stay, states will suffer irreparable harm by implementing the rule now, according to the letter.

"The Rule will require States to change their laws and policies," said Niemann. "If the Rule is struck down, all laws, regulations, and memoranda of understanding put in place to facilitate compliance with the Rule would need to be rescinded or repealed, further exacerbating the misapplication of state resources."

The EPA on Aug. 3 released its final Clean Power Plan (RIN 2060-AR33), issued under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act (149 DEN B-1, 8/4/15).

The rule sets a unique carbon dioxide emissions rate for the power sector in each state. The standard would be implemented by state regulators and is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

"Texas will defend its families and jobs from an overreaching federal government," Paxton said in a statement. "Moreover, Texas has proven you don't have to destroy industry and jobs in order to protect the environment."

Despite 15 years of rapid population growth, the attorney general said, nitrogen oxide and ozone levels are down.

Sixteen other states have also filed for administrative stay of the Clean Power Plan (151 DEN A-5, 8/6/15).

If the EPA denies Texas's request for a stay, the attorney general intends to file suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

To contact the reporter on the story: Nushin Huq in Houston at nhuq@bna.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Larry Pearl at lpearl@bna.com

For More Information

The letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is available at https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/epress/images/2015/Request_for_Administrative_Stay_of_Carbon_Rule.pdf. A news release from Paxton's office is available at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/attorney-general-paxton-calls-on-epa-to-halt-carbon-rule>.

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Everything New Orleans

New Orleans' post-Katrina repairs pose lead poisoning threat, magazine says

Mark Schleifstein, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By Mark Schleifstein, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

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on August 20, 2015 at 3:48 PM, updated August 20, 2015 at 3:50 PM

Lead poisoning remains a threat to children in New Orleans ten years after Hurricane Katrina, thanks to the exposure of a new generation of children during the sanding of old paint in post-storm renovations, according to an online article published Wednesday in National Geographic.

Reporter Lindsey Konkel points to dramatic demographic changes in the city that have resulted in a plummet in the number of African-American children with high levels of lead in their blood.

But, she reports, the influx of young, white people to the city to help in demolition and renovation has resulted in new patterns of exposure of their children and other children to particles from lead-based paint remaining in yards or carried home on clothes.

Lead in blood is linked to lower IQs, learning disabilities, attention problems and other neurological effects.

A study led by Tulane University epidemiologist Felicia Rabito, published in 2011, found that nearly two-thirds of New Orleans homes and yards had "dangerous" levels of lead, according to federal standards.

The study found that unlike before Katrina, when those most at risk were African-American, from low-income families, and living in rental housing, the more recent high-lead readings were not linked to race or income.

Properties most likely to be contaminated with lead were homes built before 1946. Lead-based paint was banned by the federal government in 1978.

In 2011, the city of New Orleans tested a number of city parks for lead contamination and renovated several of them, placing geotextile fabric and clean soil over the old soil in areas where the lead level exceeded standards.

For more information on lead poisoning, see the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals fact sheet.

To see what else the national and international media are saying about the 10th anniversary of Katrina, check out our database of K+10 stories. Click on the search button to see the full list, or filter by headline keyword and/or media outlet.

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Everything New Orleans

St. Bernard settles brain-eating amoeba death suit with family

Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com
| The Times-Picayune

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on August 20, 2015 at 3:03 PM, updated August 20, 2015 at 3:35 PM

St. Bernard Parish government this week settled a federal lawsuit filed after a brain eating-amoeba in the parish's water system killed a 4-year-old Mississippi boy in 2013.

Parish President Dave Peralta would not comment Thursday (Aug. 20) on the terms of the settlement. Attorneys for the family did not immediately return messages seeking further details.

The boy, Drake Smith Jr., died in August 2013 from an infection he contracted while playing on a Slip 'n Slide in Violet the previous month. The state Department of Health and Hospitals said he died from primary amebic meningoencephalitis - commonly known as PAM - a brain infection caused by the amoeba entering the nose that leads to the destruction of brain tissue.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also then confirmed the presence of the *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba in four locations of parish's water system in Violet and Arabi.

Smith's family subsequently sued the parish arguing that it was liable for his death. The case was set to go to trial in May, but it was pushed back after a court filing saying, in part that "both parties recognize the feasibility of a settlement."

U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman signed a motion Monday that dismissed the case and said "all the parties to this action have firmly agreed upon a compromise."

In July, the state DHH announced that it had once again found the deadly amoeba in the parish's water system during testing in June. The parish currently is undergoing a chlorine burn, where additional chlorine that kills off amoeba is pushed into the system.

In part as a result of Smith's 2013 death, DHH officially in November 2013 had adopted an emergency rule increasing the minimum disinfectant levels required for public water systems, for both chlorine and chloramine, to at least 0.5 milligrams per liter. The rule also raised the required number of samples taken each month for both chloramine and free chlorine systems by 25 percent, and it laid out a more detailed process for monitoring, recording and reporting the disinfectant levels of public systems.

Previously, if parish water supplies tested positive for any chlorine or chloramine levels at all - anything

above zero chlorine in the water – they would not come under state or federal enforcement.

The deadly amoeba can survive and thrive in water that has chlorine levels at 0.4 milligrams per liter or below.

In October 2013, the family of Jeffrey Cusimano, whose death in 2011 was linked to the same amoeba, settled its lawsuit against NeilMed Pharmaceuticals Inc., maker of a "neti pot" that the 28-year-old used to clean his sinuses with water, and Rheem Manufacturing Co., which made a water heater in his home.

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THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

State's Role in Unhealthy Water Probed

by Neena Satija | Aug. 20, 2015 | 5 Comments


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Photo by Jennifer Whitney

Water treatment facility in Rio Bravo, Texas.

LAREDO — The state of Texas should have done more to protect the safety of drinking water for two small border communities in Webb County, defense

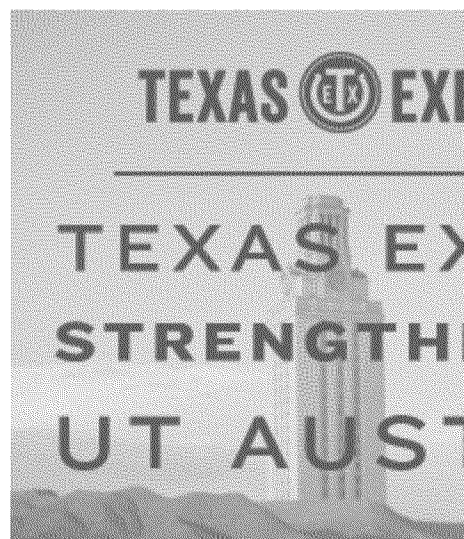
lawyers argued Thursday in the criminal trial for two former water treatment plant employees.

Former Webb County employees Johnny Amaya and Luis Camacho are accused of lying about quality of drinking water treated at the Rio Bravo Water Treatment Plant, which serves the neighboring towns of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo. Dangerous levels of e. coli bacteria were discovered at the plant in August 2013, forcing 8,000 people to boil their tap water for weeks.

At the heart of the case are problems with the Rio Bravo Water

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by John Reynolds

Treatment Plant, explored in the Texas Tribune series Undrinkable.

The trial is a result of a criminal investigation that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and later the Texas Rangers, began in 2013. The probes led to felony indictments last fall against eight current and former water plant workers for allegedly tampering with government data and engaging in organized criminal activity. Prosecutors say Amaya and Camacho were the architects of the scheme to cover up reports of unsafe drinking water; the remaining six people indicted may go on trial later this year.

But defense lawyers say Amaya and Camacho are innocent, and that the TCEQ is responsible for what happened in Rio Bravo and El Cenizo. They argued the TCEQ knew about the water plant's problems years before its 2013 investigation, and should have either shut the plant down or issued a boil water notice much sooner.

High-stakes
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"Why wasn't this done before? Or why was only a boiling water [notice] done?" Camacho's lawyer Armando Trevino asked TCEQ investigator Elsa Hull, who testified as a witness at the trial. "Is it because you think Mexican Americans have a higher tolerance" for dirty water?

Flustered, Hull said the TCEQ usually does not have the power to shut down water plants and that the operators were responsible for making sure things were working properly. At the time of the boil water notice, Amaya was water utilities director for Webb County, and Camacho was supervisor of the water plant.

"There were licensed people, and there were people who had the training that should've known better," she said.

Hull described being "in shock" when she visited the plant unannounced in August 2013, after more than a dozen people complained of dirty, smelly tap water that was making them sick. Almost all of the key pieces of equipment at the plant — filters, testing materials, disinfection pumps — were working properly, and the operators there didn't give her any answers, she told prosecutors.

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Cruz to Lead 50-State Attack on Planned Parenthood

by Katie Zezima and Tom Hamburger, The Washington Post

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When Hull tested the water herself, she measured a high level of turbidity and found a "zero" measurement of the required disinfectant chemicals in the water. She confronted Amaya, but "he kind of just nodded and didn't really say much of anything that I remember," and then walked away, she testified. "I didn't see him again after that." Amaya quit his job a few days after the boil water notice was issued.

Fausto Sosa, Amaya's lawyer, countered that important equipment at the plant still was not working today, even though Amaya no longer works there. "And by no stretch of the imagination is that Mr. Amaya's problem," he said, arguing that TCEQ and Webb County officials are responsible.

Defense lawyers also took issue with the testimony of Amaya and Camacho's former co-worker Jose Vasquez, who still works as an operator at the plant and has been indicted on similar charges. Vasquez admitted to lying about water quality on his operator logs, but said he only did "so I wouldn't get in trouble."

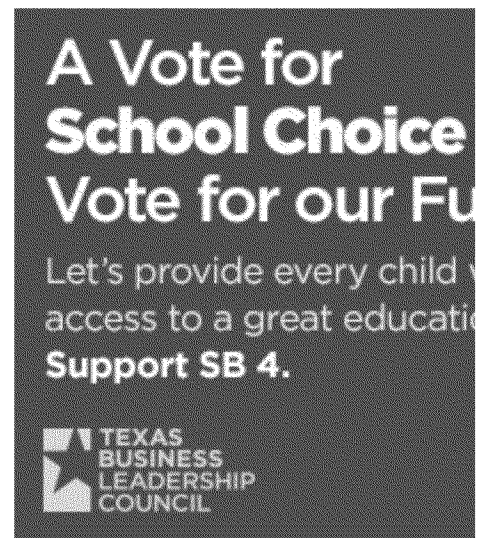
Trevino countered that Vasquez has "an incentive to lie" because he is also facing the same charges but will be tried later. If he admits he's guilty and implicates Camacho and Amaya, Vasquez could get a lighter sentence himself, Trevino said.

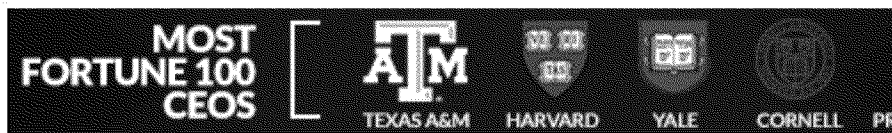
"You did this of your own volition. Did you know that you were wrong in doing this?" Trevino asked Vasquez. "I didn't know that it was wrong until now," he responded.

Gabino Cerda, another former worker who has also been indicted, testified that Camacho asked him to sign monthly reports with false turbidity numbers. "He took [the report] to my office, he asked if I could sign it. I told him no," Cerda said. Then Amaya pressed him into signing it. "[Amaya] told me, 'No no, go ahead and sign it. Just make sure the turbidity levels are low and they are within the limits,'" Cerda recalled in his testimony.

The report was for June 2013, two months before the discovery of e. coli bacteria in the drinking water.

"I want to tell the truth," said Cerda. "I think if anybody knows it, it's me."





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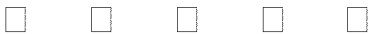
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Rouge—the closest large city—sat in the crosshairs of a human tide.

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New Orleans' future seemed uncertain. Speculation was rife that greater Baton Rouge, full of evacuees and serving as a storm-recovery staging area, could become the long-term beneficiary of one of the deadliest and

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ties -President Kip Holden's top administrator, Walter Monsour, put it plainly at the time.

to Baton Rouge is now the largest city in Louisiana, and it's going to be for quite a while, if not permanently," Monsour said.

recovering article

New Orleans from While Baton Rouge leaders and others always expressed support for New Orleans' recovery, there also was a lot of talk in the first years after the storm about long-term growth trends away from New Orleans and the coast

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Ten years later, Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes have certainly grown.

But with the hard-fought injection of \$110 billion to \$120 billion in federal aid, including Louisiana Road Home money, and another \$40 billion in private insurance, New Orleans homes, businesses, levees and hospitals were rebuilt. The New Orleans metro area has regained most of its population and maintained its dominance as Louisiana's largest economy and most populous metro area, census and other data show.

LSU economist James Richardson said Katrina created a short-term surge in Baton Rouge that has petered out and given way to more normal growth patterns.

"It didn't change the fundamentals in the whole state at all, but it certainly, in the short term, created some ups and downs that we had to deal with," he said.

But the revitalization of New Orleans and the growth of Baton Rouge since Katrina have led many civic and business leaders in both to declare that the two cities' fates are more intertwined than ever, even if the Baton Rouge area didn't quite grow as some predicted.

These leaders say they see unprecedented cooperation and joint marketing, along with the Houma area, of what they call a "super region." Another group is working on plans for a commuter rail link between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Meanwhile, amid such high-level talk, 50,000 workday drivers commute back and forth between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, according to a New Orleans Data Center analysis of census figures.

"The region has grown much closer together. The personal ties, the business ties, the sense that we're in it together is just far stronger than it was pre-Katrina, and I think that was the lasting effect," said Sean Reilly, the chief executive officer of Lamar Advertising who also served on the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

"The corridor between us is filling in, and it's filling in a way that brings us even closer together as community."

Growth and cooperation

A look at the population and economic data shows how both New Orleans and Baton Rouge have grown during the past decade.

The New Orleans metro area recouped all but 3 percent of its 1.3 million people by July 2014, though many people were redistributed toward the River Parishes and the north shore. This left Orleans Parish far from its onetime position as the state's largest parish, census estimates say.

Meanwhile, the Baton Rouge metro area added nearly 90,000 people between July 2005 and July 2014. Along with that growth came nearly 76,000 more jobs between June 2005 and June 2015 and the addition of \$3.1 billion to its total economic output between 2005 and 2013.

The economic gap between the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metro areas also narrowed between 2005 and 2013 by about \$9.6 billion, but it still remained significant, according to inflation-adjusted U.S. Department of Commerce data. In 2013, the last year for which data are available, Baton Rouge had a \$45.8 billion economy compared with \$70.7 billion for New Orleans.

An example of the economic intermingling between the two cities is the smattering of New Orleans businesses and restaurants that have popped up in Baton Rouge since Katrina.

Take the Mexican-themed Velvet Cactus restaurant, which opened earlier this year in a building on Old Hammond Highway that once served as the temporary home of Mandina's Restaurant, a New Orleans institution that didn't last long in Baton Rouge.

Partner Rusty White thinks the Velvet Cactus, which started with a location in the rebuilt Lakeview neighborhood in New Orleans, will end up being a good fit in Baton Rouge. White and his partners also own the New Orleans-based The Bulldog bar chain, which opened in Baton Rouge in 2009.

A colorful place with a patio and bar, the restaurant has an aesthetic that reflects co-owner Herb Dyer's eye for details, White said.

Some are skeptical

The growth in Baton Rouge since Katrina created that extra comfort layer necessary for the owners to make a \$3.5 million investment. The Velvet Cactus' owners also took advantage of post-Katrina tax breaks on new assets through the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 when the restaurant opened late last year.

White, who is 46, said the restaurant's appeal is as much about the laid-back, yet boisterous vibe as the food.

"The question here is, at the end when we plateau, or whatever that is, can this area handle it like Lakeview? And we think it can, obviously," White said.

But others are skeptical that Baton Rouge and New Orleans have mixed so much since Katrina and say the two communities will remain distinct.

Richard Campanella, a Tulane University geographer and author of noted books about New Orleans, pointed out that the two cities, from their very beginnings, have been places apart, separated by 80 miles of mostly swamp.

One grew up as a major port, a mercantile and slave-trading center and was subjected to waves of immigration. The other was built on bluffs outside of the Mississippi River's delta plain and on the edge of cotton-growing country.

Even after Katrina, Campanella said, people live mostly in Baton Rouge or in New Orleans, creating "barbell" population concentrations that he doesn't think will significantly spread out anytime soon.

"Sure, you have Gonzales and Prairieville kind of trickling toward New Orleans, and Kenner and LaPlace trickling toward Baton Rouge, but generally there's a thin stretch of concrete on piers connecting the two cities, and that has a way of keeping them culturally apart even as it keeps them physically apart," he said.

'This is home'

It's difficult to say how many of the thousands who arrived in Baton Rouge after the storm ended up relocating permanently. But some found a home there.

Myra Engrum, 60, wound up in Baton Rouge in the months after Katrina and stayed, finding her spiritual home at the New Hope Baptist Church on Greenwell Springs Road.

One recent Thursday night, Engrum and more than 35 other choir members at New Hope Baptist belted out, "There's a bright side somewhere," while a few children occupied themselves in mostly empty pews. With overlapping harmonies from different sections of the choir, the "bright side" chorus filled the church's high, wood-paneled roof.

Engrum, a former New Orleanian who is now raising the 9-year-old son of her deceased daughter in her adopted city, finds herself in a comfortable niche in Baton Rouge, just like her front-row place in the choir.

"This is home," she said.

Engrum is one of probably thousands who have remained in the Baton Rouge area and not returned to New Orleans in the decade since Katrina. An army of social science researchers and demographers have studied who has gone back to New Orleans, but solid numbers on precisely who and how many people have remained in Baton Rouge are lacking, experts said.

A 2014 analysis of annual census surveys, for instance, showed in the first year after Katrina that 12 percent of the New Orleans residents who had not returned lived somewhere else in Louisiana.

Troy Blanchard, a demographer and associate dean of the LSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences, said the methods used by the census and other sources are not designed to handle the population fluidity that followed Katrina.

One estimate, based on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, was pulled together by Elizabeth Fussell, a former Tulane population researcher who lived through Katrina and is now at Brown University in Rhode Island.

Her analysis shows that of the scores or hundreds of thousands who may have evacuated to East Baton Rouge Parish temporarily around the late August storm, the parish ultimately saw a population spike of about 17,500 people at the end of 2005—a number that's close to other estimates.

"There was a significant and permanent gain between 2005 and 2006 that is certainly due to Katrina evacuees," Fussell wrote in an email.

More leave than arrive

Since then, though, the parish has seen more leaving than arriving virtually every year, though it is not clear from the data who they are, where they are going or why they are leaving—whether Katrina evacuees or existing residents moving to the suburbs, Fussell and others said.

Natural growth from births has overcome this regular loss of people from outmigration, so the overall population in East Baton Rouge has continued to increase since the 2005 spike—but on the more gradual trajectory seen before the storm, Fussell's analysis shows.

"From these data, it is impossible to differentiate Katrina evacuees from everyone else in the population," she said.

What the social science research has turned up is that a variety of factors have typically melded to prevent some people from returning. Others made a more active choice to move.

Consider Joe and Peggy Geraci, who had lived in heavily damaged St. Bernard Parish.

With flood insurance and the help of a U.S. Small Business Administration loan, the Geracis bought a house in Denham Springs after the storm, relocating along with most of their extended family.

Livingston and nearby Ascension parishes were growing Baton Rouge suburbs before Katrina. Both saw a rush of people after the storm and have continued to grow despite the economic slowdown a few years ago.

Sixty percent of the nearly 90,000 people added to the Baton Rouge metro area since 2005 live in Livingston and Ascension parishes. Almost all of the rest, 36 percent, live in East Baton Rouge, census data say.

As in other parts of the Florida Parishes, where former St. Bernard neighbors and family members have moved together into the same areas, the Geracis' Willow Pointe neighborhood is home to several members of Peggy Geraci's extended family. One of her daughters, her husband and their 8-year-old child also live in nearby Watson.

Joe, 71, is retired, while Peggy, 64, is nearing retirement. They've had their difficulties, recently dealing with the death of Peggy's son, but they say they are satisfied to stay in the Baton Rouge area.

Joe said he saw immediate similarities between Chalmette and Denham Springs and has not felt the desire to move back. Peggy, who said she briefly considered moving back a few years after the storm, is happy being near her family. Still, she continues to feel a connection to a place and people who largely are no longer there.

"Like I say, 'This is home now,' and it is, but I kind of feel like there is always a part of me that will feel like Chalmette was home," she said.

A promise to stay

Engrum, whose apartment off Read Boulevard in New Orleans East was swamped by floodwaters, said it was too emotional for her to go back. She had no interest in saving her belongings, she said.

Her daughter died shortly after Engrum's grandchild was born nearly a year after Katrina, and Engrum promised her daughter to raise the boy, Jeremiah Dixon, in Baton Rouge.

There have been struggles and successes, and help has come from unexpected places.

The aptly named Higher Ground Outreach Church in Baton Rouge gave her and her daughter shelter for a month in the weeks after Katrina.

Assistance from Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge, where she worked for a time, and later AARP helped her get on her feet and find work. She does field work nearly 30 hours per week for a national opinion research company, which allows her to be home for Jeremiah after school.

Engrum was able to buy her first home and win legal custody of Jeremiah.

She and Jeremiah also have found fellowship at New Hope church, which is attended by several other former New Orleanians displaced by Katrina.

"When we get to the end, when we get to places where we have a lot of difficulty, you know, I must say, my faith in the Lord and the people that are around me, they will show up," she said.

Follow David J. Mitchell on Twitter, @NewsieDave (<https://twitter.com/NewsieDave>).

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Posted: 08/24/2015 07:52 AM EDT | Edited: 46 minutes ago



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This Nov. 26, 2012, photo shows a flood wall and floodgate along Lakeshore Drive and Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans.

A decade after Hurricane Katrina devastated coastal Louisiana, forcing 1.5 million residents to evacuate and causing \$100 billion in damage, the region is becoming a model for climate change adaptation planning -- even if some people in the state still don't want to say the "c" word.

Louisiana's governor, long-shot Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal, has been non-committal on climate change. He'll acknowledge it's happening, but says he's uncertain how much humans are to blame. Nevertheless, Louisiana officials have been planning for rising

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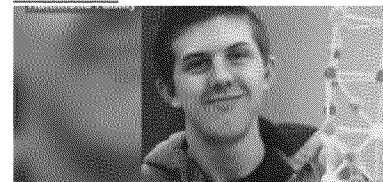
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temperatures and the cascading impacts climate change will have on the state, from rising seas to potentially more dangerous storms.

"We are leaders in climate change adaptation, we just don't call it that," said Doug Meffert, executive director of Audubon Louisiana.

The Louisiana coast, with an average elevation of just three feet above sea level and a buffer of rapidly disappearing wetlands, is among the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change. But the state and the city of New Orleans have taken actions in the last 10 years to help make sure recovery from one disastrous storm leads to preparation for challenges the coast will face in the future.

The Louisiana Audubon and a coalition of other environmental groups recently released a report looking at what's been done to make the region more sustainable, from rebuilding failed levees to developing a statewide plan for the coast, and where there still need to be investments.

Overhauling the levees

The failure of the levee system in and around New Orleans has been largely attributed to bad design and inadequate construction, which allowed water to flood 80 percent of the city in the aftermath of the storm.

Improving the levees was a top priority, and New Orleans today boasts what has been called the "best flood control system of any coastal community." Congress authorized more than \$14 billion for rebuilding the levees and other flood protections after Katrina, leading to the construction of a 133-mile feat of civil engineering.

Those investments have now protected the city against a 100-year flood -- a term used to describe a flood whose severity has only a 1 percent chance of happening in any one year. Building to that level of protection has been celebrated as a major post-Katrina accomplishment. But some point out that the system was supposed to be built to at least those specifications before the storm. After Katrina -- a 150-year storm for New Orleans and a 400-year storm for other parts of the Gulf Coast -- many say the protections should be even stronger.

"Most folks feel like a major city like New Orleans, a major urban center with economic resources, probably should have 400- or 500- standard of protection," said John Lopez, a scientist and the coastal sustainability program director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

Still, Lopez said, the levee system has "definitely improved since before Katrina."

Creation of a central coastal authority

Before the storm, coastal protection from storms and restoration efforts were handled by separate agencies, with some work falling under the Department of Transportation and other work to the Department of Natural Resources. The state legislature moved in December 2005 to unify coastal issues under the new Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or CPRA.

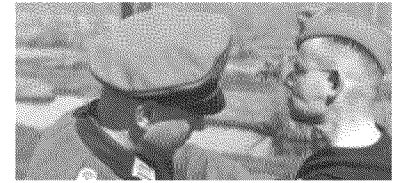
CPRA is required to submit a plan for ecosystem restoration and hurricane protection to the state legislature each year. The plan is supposed to include CPRA's projects, as well as federal, parish and private restoration work.

Development of a coastal master plan

The most important part of that unified response under CPRA has been the creation of a state coastal master plan. The plan, to be updated every five years, is meant to outline the state's approach to "achieving a sustainable coast through the integration of coastal protection and restoration projects and programs based on the best science and engineering available."

The first master plan was finished in 2007. Meffert described it "as a learning model."

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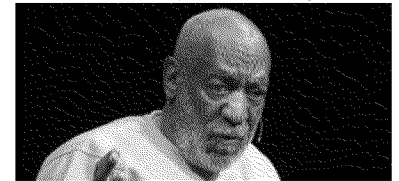
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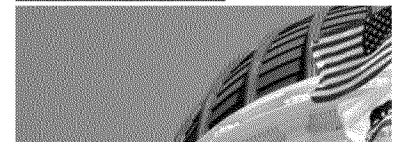
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But the most recent master plan, released in 2012, is a "masterpiece," Meffert said, based on sound science for what the region can expect as the climate changes and seas rise. "It did what no other master plan or general plan had done before -- drew a map of Louisiana with projects that were impactful and doable, and it really for the first time put on the map what we could save," he said.

The plan includes restoration, structural improvements, and "nonstructural" measures -- actions that acknowledge some flooding is likely to happen and that other steps, like raising houses above the flood plain and creating evacuation plans, are also necessary. The 2012 plan includes 109 projects along the coast, and would require \$50 billion in investments over 50 years.

The state is currently at work on its 2017 master plan.

Restoring wetlands

A major part of the master plan involves protecting and restoring coastal wetlands, which provide a natural barrier to storms. "We need levees to protect urban centers, but we need our wetlands to protect our levees," said Lopez.

Louisiana has 3 million acres of wetlands, but it's losing them at an astonishing rate -- a football field-size area every hour, according to a 2011 U.S. Geological Survey study.

The coast is besieged by subsiding land and rising sea levels due to climate change. According to some projections, the Louisiana coast is seeing the highest rate of relative sea level rise in the world.

The outlook for the wetlands is bleak. But hope has come in an unlikely place: the massive settlement resulting from the 2010 BP disaster, which spilled more than 3 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Last month, the Department of Justice announced an \$18.7 billion settlement with BP for damages resulting from the spill. Up to \$8.7 billion of that could go to Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts. That gives the state a major investment toward the restoration work in the 2012 master plan.

The state, "appears to be putting every cent they can get from BP into funding those restoration protections," said Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network. "Sadly, the way we found some of that money was BP."

While the BP settlement is "a big step," said Lopez, it's not enough money fund all the elements of the state's master plan.

A home on the Web

The state has created a public website showing coastal risks and protection projects, launched earlier this year. Housed on Coastal.La.gov, the website for the CPRA, it includes interactive mapping that allows residents to pull up their own address and see both the flood projections and the efforts to reduce risks.

The site is helping improve awareness about coastal vulnerabilities, as well as solutions.

"It gives people more of a reality check," said Simone Maloz, executive director of the group Restore or Retreat. "Unfortunately in Louisiana, that's important."

Beyond restoration and fortification

While the state's various projects are helping make the coastal region more resilient, there is growing recognition they won't always be enough.

"Restoration is not always an option, and neither is protection," said Maloz.

This work includes raising individual houses out of the flood plain and educating the public about storm safety and response -- work that often falls to parish governments. Maloz said



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results have been mixed.

One bright spot she points to is Terrebonne Parish, which has won funding through Federal Emergency Management Agency grants and state programs to raise more than 1,000 homes. That parish has a waiting list of people who want to elevate their houses.

"They have been able to cobble together all kinds of resources," said Maloz. But the challenge, she said, is that "One parish might be getting it done, doing it right, and neighboring parish might not be even close."

To really protect residents of the coast, more attention should be given to these measures, said Sarthou. "Restoration may take 10 to 20 years," she said. "Storms can happen any year. There needs to be more of an attempt to help those parishes prepare or mitigate damage or flood losses in those communities as we await the results of coastal restoration."

A man with a plan

New Orleans has a new point person for handling some of those human challenges: Jeff Hebert. He was appointed chief resilience officer in November. Hebert, who also serves as the executive director of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, comes from a background in neighborhood revitalization.

"A lot of work has been done over 10 years, but much has been done in isolation from one another," said Hebert.

Hebert's resilience officer position was created through a program of the Rockefeller Foundation called 100 Resilient Cities, which aims to unify resilience work within cities and unite municipalities around the world to solve problems collaboratively.

Hebert said he sees his job as addressing three challenges: First, preparing for climate change, which includes homes, businesses and infrastructure, like water management systems. Second, working to connect city residents with job opportunities, particularly in climate-preparation work like coastal restoration and green infrastructure. Third, working to make it possible for people to stay in New Orleans, including financial literacy, access to health care and affordable housing.

Climate change is a large part of that work, Hebert said. "Resilience" requires a better understanding of what climate change, sea level rise and changing storm patterns will mean for the city, and beginning to prepare for that. "We're starting to understand that the future is going to look very different for us," he said.

Hebert's office plans to release a new strategy on Aug. 25 that will lay out a vision for the city.

"We've been recovering for 10 years," said Hebert. "Today is the time to pivot from recovery to building the future city."

While many are using the 10-year anniversary of Katrina to reflect on what has been done, it's also an important point for reflecting on what still needs to happen.

"We can't confuse recovery with sustainability," said Lopez. "Recovery gives you the opportunity to be more sustainable, but recovery is not sustainable in and of itself. It gives you the opportunity to take the next step."

MORE: Hurricane Katrina, Flooding, Louisiana, Bobby Jindal, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Resilience, Levees, Coastal Issues, Sea Level Rise, Global Warming, Katrina 10, What's Working

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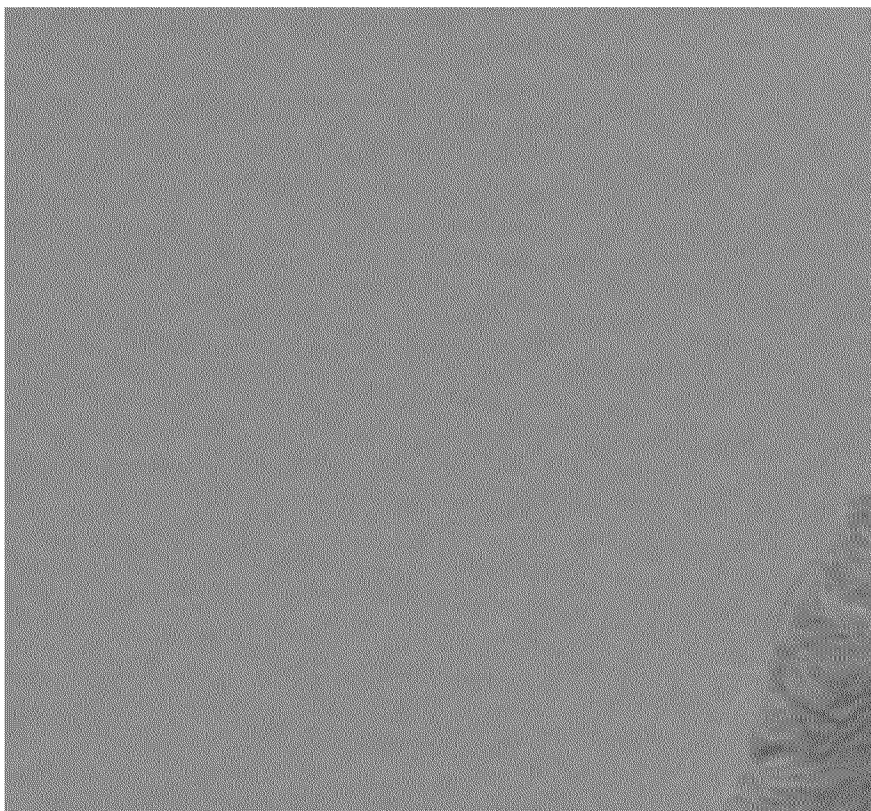
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CONVERSATIONS

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Bob Nelson

So, Louisiana and her pols deny climate change, fight national efforts to fight it, and cash in federal checks to fix their own problems.

Nice trick.

Like · Reply · 1 min



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Please, Amsterdam has us beat in as many ways

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-years-after-katrina-louisiana-is-becoming-a-model-for-climate-resilience_55d53afee4b07addcb4586aa?ncid=tweetInkush... 5/7



Please, Amsterdam has us beat in so many ways.

Like · Reply · 11 mins



Mary Brinovec

"We are leaders in climate change adaptation, we just don't call it that," said Doug Meffert, executive director of Audubon Louisiana.
that statement made me laugh so hard i had to stop reading ! what do they call it then?
LOL!

Like · Reply · 1 · 14 mins



Steve Minion · Queensborough Community College

New Orleans is a failed experiment at building below sea level.. 80% of the city flooded during Katrina.

Like · Reply · 28 mins



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Other place have done it around the world.

Like · Reply · 10 mins



Donald Blume · Florida State University

Pivoting about fifty miles inland would be a good first move on the part of New Orleans planners.

Like · Reply · 2 · 40 mins



Sieur De Bienville

How far inland do you suppose it is today?

Like · Reply · 4 mins



Dennis Bickham · Silliman Institute

There are many factors that have contributed to costal erosion in Louisiana. One of the biggest is the oil industry. One commission tried to hold the industry responsible. The oil executives flew to Baton Rouge in their private luxury jets to give the Governor and the legislature their orders. The result was that Governor Jindal filed suit against the commission and then the Governor with the approval of the legislature, stacked the commission with oil friendly members.

It is doubtful we will see any significant progress towards reducing costal erosion in the near future because the oil industry controls most of the governmental bodies – local and state. Big oil and big campaign contributions will always trump coastal erosion.

Like · Reply · 2 · 41 mins



Rick Scott · Renton, Washington

"We've been recovering for 10 years," said Hebert. "Today is the time to pivot from recovery to building the future city."

If your plans are below the levee's, it probaly will be another ten years before they get it right.

Like · Reply · 1 · 1 hr



Cyb Diver · The University of Hard Knocks

Let's pretend man has nothing to do with climate change, I said pretend. Then based on the current weather patterns and changes in temperature I am glad I'm old because if we continue to do nothing and follow the same way of life we've only got about another 20 years. These so called plans government throws at us are about 40 years late. I strongly recommend stretching exersises folks to kiss your butts good bye.

Like · Reply · 2 · 1 hr



David Drake · Manager at Self-Employed

"Louisiana's governor, long-shot Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal, has been non-committal on climate change. He'll acknowledge it's happening, but says he's uncertain how much humans are to blame."

what is non-commial about this? NO ONE in the scientific community is certain how much humans are to blame!

Like · Reply · 3 · 1 hr



John Smolley · The University of Utah

"Most" is what the consensus says given the lack of any current known natural cause such as solar warming. You kink Bobby would agree with that?

cause such as solar warming. You think Bobby would agree with that?

Like · Reply ·  1 · 58 mins



David Drake · Manager at Self-Employed

John Smolley not sure he might just ask for specific data to back that up. It's not been quantified now has it

Like · Reply · 56 mins



David Drake · Manager at Self-Employed

Erik Frederiksen that's all fine and well. I love it wen in speaking about science, the most someone can throw at me is 'most'. See Erik, there are a lot of us who believe man efecfts the environment in a myriad of ways, but wealso see quantification before we throw the baby out with the bathwater and invest in un proven technologoes. There is a nem for people like that - realists


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Dave Watson · LCI Monterrey

as the oil industry runs the colony let them pay for it. they caused this anyway. bring back huey long!!!

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